

Page 9, after line 18, insert the following:

A₄ --DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Sub B₂
A₅
1. (Amended) A transfer foil for applying a decorative layer arrangement comprising at least one lacquer layer and a heat-activatable adhesive layer to a substrate, wherein the transfer foil comprises a base foil which is formed by a paper web and which is joined by means of a permanent adhesive to the one surface of a carrier film, at the other surface of which is arranged the decorative layer arrangement which is releasable from the carrier film under the effect of heat and which on its side remote from the carrier film has the heat-activatable adhesive layer which serves for joining to the substrate, wherein the base foil is siliconised on its surface remote from the carrier film and releasably adheres with said surface to a carrier foil.

2. (Amended) A transfer foil according to claim 1, wherein the base foil with the carrier film and the decorative layer arrangement is subdivided into a plurality of individual elements, wherein a plurality of such individual elements are arranged on a carrier foil web in such a way that they can be pulled off same.

3. (Amended) A transfer foil according to claim 2, wherein the individual elements are formed by stamping or perforation of the base foil, the carrier film and the decorative layer arrangement along their intended peripheral edges.

4. (Amended) A transfer foil according to claim 1 wherein, the decorative layer arrangement is transparent and the adhesive layer which serves for fixing the decorative layer arrangement to the substrate can be printed upon by means of a printer, for example a laser or thermal printer.

5. (Amended) A transfer foil according to claim 1, wherein the decorative layer arrangement has at least one replication lacquer layer provided at a surface with a structure having an optical-diffraction and/or holographic action.

6. (Amended) A transfer foil according to claim 5, wherein the structure which has an optical-diffraction and/or holographic action carries a transparent layer of a material whose refractive index is markedly higher than that of the transparent replication lacquer layer.

7. (Amended) A transfer foil according to claim 5, wherein the structure having an optical-diffraction and/or holographic action carries a vapor deposited layer of ZnS, TiO₂, SiO or a material which is of a similar effect in terms of refraction.

8. (Amended) A transfer foil according to claim 1, wherein the heat-activatable adhesive layer serving for fixing to the substrate is formed by two adhesive layer portions, between which is arranged a marking produced in a printing process.

9. (Amended) A transfer foil according to claim 8, wherein the marking is formed by printing inks which are perceivable only upon illumination with light of predetermined wavelength ranges.

10. (Amended) A transfer foil according to claim 1, wherein the transfer foil includes the following mutually adjoining constituents:

- a carrier foil web,
- a web of silicone paper having a siliconized surface and a non-siliconized surface, wherein the silicone paper web releasably adheres with its siliconized surface to the carrier foil web,
- a carrier film which is joined by means of a permanent adhesive to the non-siliconized surface of the silicone paper web, and on the free surface of which there are successively provided:
 - a release layer which is present only if necessary,
 - a transparent replication lacquer layer having at its surface remote from the carrier film a structure which has an optical-diffraction and/or holographic action,
 - a layer which covers the structure at least in a region-wise manner and which is of a material of a high refractive index in comparison with the replication lacquer layer,

-a heat-activatable adhesive layer, and
-possibly a second heat-activatable adhesive layer and between the two heat-activatable adhesive layers a printed marking, wherein
-the replication lacquer layer, the layer of highly refractive material and the heat-activatable adhesive layer or layers are transparent and the adhesive layer forming the surface of the transfer foil, which is remote from the carrier foil web, is formed by a material which can be printed upon by means of a printer.

As 11. (Amended) A process for the production of a transfer foil comprising:

forming a hot stamping foil comprising a carrier film with a detachable decorative layer arrangement comprising at least one lacquer layer and a heat-activatable adhesive layer;

fixedly joining the hot stamping foil by means of a permanent adhesive to an adhesive composite comprising a carrier foil and a base foil, wherein the base foil is disposed between the carrier foil and the hot stamping foil and the surface of the base foil remote from the hot stamping foil is siliconized.